



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

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February 12, 2022

Tamara Lich
President
Freedom Convoy 2022

Ms. Lich,

The protests in our city, and the occupation of certain residential districts by a large number of trucks, is now entering its third week. My overarching concern is for the safety and security of our residents, business owners and workers in the downtown core, who are innocent collateral damage of this unprecedented national and international demonstration.

Our residents are exhausted and on edge, and our small businesses impacted by your blockades are teetering on the brink of permanent closure.

I don't believe these harmful effects on our community and its residents were the intended consequences of your protest.

That's why I am writing to ask that you remove your convoy and its trucks from all of our residential neighbourhoods and that you restrict your presence to a limited perimeter from Wellington Street where it meets Elgin Street and to the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway.

I ask that you immediately seek the support of the truckers to follow this path of de-escalation. I would offer to meet with you to discuss your protesters' concerns, as long as you respect the following conditions:

1. Remove all trucks from the residential districts south of Wellington Street, and from all other residential areas including the market, the Ottawa Baseball Stadium on Coventry, etc.;
2. Agree to not backfill the residential areas currently occupied with trucks, other vehicles and/or demonstrators; and
3. Agree to not displace the truck convoy, vehicles and/or demonstrators to other residential areas in the City of Ottawa.

I want to see clear evidence that the truck convoy will be departing the residential areas before noon on Monday, February 14. I am asking you to collaborate with local authorities to protect the adjacent communities as the convoy exits.

As the departure of the over 400 trucks from residential areas is a significant logistical undertaking that will probably take 24 to 72 hours, we ask that protesters stop asking more demonstrators to come to Ottawa this weekend, in order to assist the truck convoy to depart the residential districts in a manner that ensures the safety and security of residents.

I look forward to your protest movement meaningfully delivering on these steps as a show of goodwill towards our community. Once there is clear evidence that you have delivered on these commitments, I am prepared to meet with you in a timely fashion.

I hope we can make progress to alleviate the extreme and undue burden this protest, and the occupation of our residential districts in the core and elsewhere, have had on the residents and businesses of downtown Ottawa.

A copy of this letter is also being provided to your legal counsel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

cc.: Keith Wilson, Q.C. Counsel (Freedom Convoy 2022)